

READING PLAN

SERIES: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

10-WEEK BIBLE READING & STUDY PLAN

MATTHEW 5-7

This summer, we're diving into *The Sermon on the Mount* from Matthew chapters 5-7. We invite you to use this guide as you trek through the texts in your personal study time.

Suggested Tips:

- **Highlight** - As you read, take time to **highlight** or make notes of repeating themes, phrases, or words in the text. Note when Jesus uses illustrations and what they communicate. Look up cross-referenced scriptures that show up as footnotes in your Bible.
- **Ask Questions** - Instead of reading for answers, try coming up with questions. *What jumps out to you? Why would Jesus say certain things, and why would He say them in the way He did? What was Jesus conveying? How do His repeated words, phrases, and themes connect throughout the entire sermon (and even to other parts of scripture)?*
- **Consider the Context:** *The Sermon on the Mount* took place early on in Jesus' public ministry. He'd just invited some young guys to follow Him and then drops a world-renowned syllabus in the way of this sermon in front of a huge crowd. So keep in mind that this *is a sermon*. So, knowing that, we suggest reading it in its entirety *before* you even begin...Matthew chapters 5-7...read them altogether as a *sermon*. And once you have, unpack the depth and richness that is the greatest sermon ever preached.

WEEK 1 | The Upside-Down Way of the Kingdom (Part 1)

THEME: What kind of people belong to God's kingdom?

SECTION 1: Matthew 5:1–12

The Beatitudes (Character)

SECTION 2: Matthew 5:13–16

Salt & Light (Influence)

SECTION 3: Matthew 5:17–20

Jesus and the Law

WEEK 2 | The Upside-Down Way of the Kingdom (Part 2)

THEME: God cares about the heart, not just behavior.

SECTION 4: Matthew 5:21–26

Anger & reconciliation

SECTION 5: Matthew 5:27–32

Lust, faithfulness, and integrity

SECTION 6: Matthew 5:33–37

Truthfulness & simple honesty

WEEK 3 | The Upside-Down Way of the Kingdom (Part 3)

THEME: Kingdom living reshapes how we respond to others.

SECTION 7: Matthew 5:38–42

Retaliation & generosity

SECTION 8: Matthew 5:43–48

Loving enemies

SECTION 9: REFLECTION SECTION

Re-read Matthew 5 as a whole. Consider: How is Jesus redefining righteousness?

WEEK 4 | Practicing Faith and Imitating Christ

THEME: Who is your audience?

SECTION 10: Matthew 6:1–4

Giving in secret

SECTION 11: Matthew 6:5–15

Approaching Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

SECTION 12: Matthew 6:16–18

Fasting & unseen faithfulness

WEEK 5 | Trusting GOD, the Father

THEME: A kingdom life is free from anxiety because of trust.

SECTION 13: Matthew 6:19–24

Treasure, loyalty, and heart tension

SECTION 14: Matthew 6:25–30

Do not worry

SECTION 15: Matthew 6:31–34

Seek first the kingdom

WEEK 6 | Relationships and Prayer

THEME: How kingdom people relate to others.

SECTION 16: REFLECTION SECTION

Re-read Matthew 6 as a whole. Consider: What direction does Jesus give to us as we abide?

SECTION 17: Matthew 7:1–6

Judging wisely, not hypocritically

SECTION 18: Matthew 7:7–11

Ask, seek, knock. Insights to prayer.

WEEK 7 | The Narrow Path

THEME: Not all paths lead to life.

SECTION 19: Matthew 7:12

The Golden Rule

SECTION 20: Matthew 7:13–14

The narrow and wide gates

SECTION 21: Matthew 7:15–20

True and false fruit

WEEK 8 | Hearing and Doing

THEME: Obedience demonstrates belief.

SECTION 22: Matthew 7:21–23

Knowing Jesus vs. merely using His name

SECTION 23: Matthew 7:24–27

Wise and foolish builders

SECTION 24: Matthew 7:28–29

Jesus' authority

WEEK 9 | Abiding Shifts Our Living

THEME: Formation, not just information.

SECTION 25: REFLECTION SECTION

Re-read Matthew 7 as a whole. Consider: What direction does Jesus give to us as we abide?

SECTION 26: Matthew 5:1–16

REVISIT: *Identity & influence*

SECTION 27: Matthew 6:9–13

REVISIT: *The Lord's Prayer (Read this section again, but slow and meditative.)*

WEEK 10 | The Wrap

THEME: What will you do with Jesus' words?

SECTION 28: Matthew 7:12–27

REVISIT: *Putting it all into practice*

SECTION 29: Matthew 5–7 (full reading)

Read as one sermon (As you read, do so with a "preacher's voice." Imagine Jesus preaching these very words all at once.)

SECTION 30: Matthew 5–7 (selected highlights)

Choose 5–7 verses that stand out most. Revisit those as you meditate on what and why they jumped out to you.